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Dragon Con 2014

The Daily Dragon

Guardians of the Galaxy and the Brothers Gunn by Suzanne Church

On Saturday evening, one of the most anticipated panels of this year's Dragon Con was so chock full of super-awesomely-yumminess that this reporter wrote faster than a mouse skating on a frozen pond in a cat harem. **James Gunn**, writer and director of *Guardians of the Galaxy*, and his brother **Sean Gunn**, who was the stand-in on set for the CGI character Rocket in *Guardians*, spoke to a packed Marriott Atrium Ballroom on Saturday.

To set the mood, James got the audience to shout, "You Suck, Rooker," so that he could leave the message for Michael Rooker, who played Yondu Udonta in *Guardians*. Apparently, Rooker, who is appearing this weekend in Toronto at Fan Expo, had earlier sent a similar, "You suck," message to James, with the help of, "Maybe three fans."

Proof, once again, that Dragon Con rocks!

Both James and Sean spoke about using Sean as the on-set stand-in for Rocket. "Motion capture doesn't work if the face isn't human-shaped," said James. "So we referenced



him—his face and his body. It gave the other actors on set a reference point to look at, and someone's responses to play against. Bradley Cooper provided a lot of the acting, and so did the animators. It was the umbrella of Sean, Bradley, [my writing and directing], and all the animators" that brought Rocket to life.

A fan thanked Sean for his work as Kirk on *Gilmore Girls* and then asked the actor which Kirk-quirk was the most fun to play. "I love dogs," said Sean. "In one episode, I had to walk a dozen dogs, so that one."

James spoke about the way that the movies *Aliens* and *Blade Runner* changed the way that science fiction movies looked: dark and dreary to sell that the environments were real. He said he wanted

to use the pulp colors from the 1950s and combine that aesthetic with the dark grit of *Aliens* then blend them into something bold and dirty at the same time.

Some of the most moving parts of the panel came at the times when James spoke of his life growing up in Manchester, Missouri, and how that affected not only his personality, but also the way he feels about Marvel comics and specifically the types of heroes that make up the Guardians. "My peeps were the outcasts," he said. "I never knew anyone from the industry. This whole journey of being an oddball kid who always did what he wanted. We all felt like we were those Marvel characters, those Guardians of the Galaxy. Forgotten characters who felt like orphans and outcasts."

This reporter couldn't help but feel as though that sums up the sentiment of most of us who attend conventions like Dragon Con. We are the outcasts who want to be the underdog heroes.

Read the complete article on the Daily Dragon website.

From Page to Stage Pageant Winners

The "From Page to Stage Comic Book Pageant" announced its winners Saturday. The contest was presented by comic book writers **Peter David** and **George Perez**. Judges were **Georges Jeanty**, **Comfort Love**, and **Adam Withers**.

Yes, We do Want to Kill Batman Award: Kelsey McCarter as Harley Quinn

Biggest Little Award: Keelia Gaffey as Supergirl

Prettiest Rodent Award: Lauren Napoli and Annie Eason as Betty and Dee from *Rat Queens*

Judge's Choice Award: Michael Wuttke and Hannah Wuttke as Magneto and Hannah Doom

Third Place: Faelan Wilson as Thor Odinson

Second Place: Christine Mar-



chese as Bleez, Red Lantern Corps

First Place: Brema Ebbing, Dom Williams, Denzel Wright, Chris Gunn, Erika Williams, Snia Wil-

liams, Lauryn Roberts, Weadell Smith, Jeana Espisito, Milinda Williams, Verne Williams, and Seane Sawyer as the Black Panther Wedding

Schedule Changes

Hy = Hyatt
M = Marriott
Hil = Hilton
S = Sheraton
W = Westin

The following previously confirmed presenters will not be able to attend Dragon Con 2014: **Jennifer Kalamanson, Candy Keane, Dean O’Gorman, *NEW* Zoie Palmer, Anthony Spay, Chris Vickers**

Additions

Alex Hughes will be signing autographs Sun 10AM, Int’l Hall South (M).

Jack H. Walsh will be doing a reading Sun 10AM, Marietta (Hy).

Trace Beaulieu will be on “Joseph Scrimshaw and The Comedy of Doom” Sun 5:30PM, Grand Ballroom West (W).

Aaron J. Sagers will be on “The Last Ship” Sun 7PM, Augusta Ballroom (W).

Anthony Taylor will be on “Cary Elwes’ Walk on the Dark Side” Sun 7PM, Int’l South (Hy).

Sci-Fried will be playing on Sun 7PM, Concourse (Hil).

Delilah S. Dawson will be on “Light in the Darkness: Humor in UF” Sun 10PM, Chastain ED (W).

“Roundtable on Race, Gender, & Sexuality in Comics & Fandom” Open forum for discussing issues of race, gender, and sexuality that arise in the comics industry and fandom with Matthew J. Brown, Kari Storla, Daniel Amrhein, Vickie Willis, and John Flowers. Sun 10PM, Hanover F (Hy).

“Scott Sigler—One for the Junkies” *New York Times* best-selling novelist and podcaster Scott Sigler and A Kovacs bring tentacles and mayhem to this panel. Sun 10PM, 203 (Hil).

Cherie Priest will be on “Urban Fantasy or Horror? What’s the Difference?” Mon 10AM, Chastain ED (W).

“Medical Myths” Dr. Mattke, practicing emergency physician, discusses medical myths. Mon 11:30AM, 204-207 (Hil).

Tracy Hickman will be on “All-Star ’80s Reunion.” Mon 1PM, Imperial Ballroom (M).

Cancellations

Dean O’Gorman will not be on “Hobbit and LOTR Guests” Sun 11:30AM, Atrium Ballroom (M); and “Hobbit and LOTR Guests” Mon 11:30AM, Atrium Ballroom (M).

***NEW* Zoie Palmer** will not be on “Lost Girl Cast” Sun 11:30AM and Mon 11:30AM, Peachtree Ballroom A-F (W).

Chris Vickers will not be on “The Exorcism of Emily Rose” Sun 11:30AM, Valdosta (S); and “Para 101: Truths and Misconceptions” Sun 4PM, Augusta (S).

Tracy Hickman will not be on “Shroud of the Avatar: Roundtable.” Sun 4PM, Grand Salon D (Hil).

Erin Leigh Bushko will not be on “Costuming: Dieselpunk & The Great Wars” Sun 4PM, Augusta I & III (W).

Travis Scott Merrill will not be on “Costuming: Dieselpunk & The Great Wars” Sun 4PM, Augusta I & III (W).

James Urbaniak will not be on “Joseph Scrimshaw and The Comedy of Doom” Sun 5:30PM, Grand Ballroom West (Hil).

Brobdignagian Bards will not be playing on Sun 7PM, Concourse (Hil).

Yale Stewart will not be on “Webcomics” Sun 7PM, 201 (Hil).

Aaron Fever will not be on “From Fiction to Film” Sun 10PM, Embassy D-F (Hy).

“Shadows of the Paranormal: Searching for the Truth” Mon 10AM, Augusta (S).

J. August Richards will not be on “Guests of the Whedon Universe” Mon 11:30AM, Grand Ballroom A-F (S).

“New Developments in Antiviral Therapy: A Case for Hepatitis C” Mon

11:30AM, 207/206/205/204 (Hil).

Updates

“The Worlds of Terry Pratchett” moved from Sun 7PM to Sat 10AM, Macon (S).

“Orphan Black” moved from Sat 7PM to Sun 7PM, Macon (S).

“Portalarium Games Presents Shroud of the Avatar” moved from Sun 11:30AM, Grand Ballroom East (Hil) to Mon 1PM, Grand Salon E (Hil).

“The Musketeers” moved from Sun 1PM to Sun 2:30PM, Macon (S).

“Costuming: Dieselpunk & The Great Wars” moved from Sun 2:30PM to Sun 4PM, Augusta I & III (W).

“Open Museum Hours” moved from Sun 4PM to Sun 2:30PM, Augusta I & III (W).

“The Puppet Match Game” moved from Sun 5:30PM to Sun 8:30PM, A704 (M). (18+ only)

“A Ventriloquist Interviews His Dummy, and Vice Versa” moved from Sun 7PM to Sun 10PM, A704 (M). (18+ only)

“So You Want to Make a Fan Film?” moved from Mon 11:30AM to Sun 8:30PM, L401-L403 (M).

“Arrow: When the Shadows Fall Away” moved from Mon 1PM, Centennial II-III (Hy), to Atrium Ballroom (M).

“Arrow: Vertigo with a Mirakuru Chaser” moved from Mon 1PM to Mon 2:30PM, M301-302 (M).

“Linear vs Non-Linear Narrative in Shroud of the Avatar” moved from Mon 1PM, Grand Salon E (Hil) to Sun 11:30AM, Grand Ballroom East (Hil).

“Game of Thrones: The Bestiary” moved from Mon 2:30PM to Mon 1PM, M301-302 (M).

See the complete list of schedule changes on the Daily Dragon website.

Family Fun Dance and Sing-A-Long

Join the Kaleidoscope Track to sing and dance to theme and pop songs in a kid-friendly, G-rated environment. Costumes encouraged. Theme: Everything is Awesome. Sun 5:30PM, A6201/A602 (Marriott).



Yule Ball

The pleasure of your company is requested at the Yule Ball where students of Hogwarts will socialize with their “foreign” guests! Brought to you by the YA Lit Track. This is an all ages event, but there is often alcohol served where adults are present. Please accompany your under-aged children. Sun 8:30PM, Imperial Ballroom (Marriott).



Caritas

Pick your favorite song, climb on stage, and bare your soul through song with the Whedonverse Track at Caritas! Live performances from Lorne and the Lornettes. Sun 10PM, International DE (Westin).



Mechanical Masquerade: Atlantis

It’s Enchantment 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea with the Alternate History Track! The Artifice Club’s annual bash continues, with a nautical theme. Masks encouraged but not required. Sun 10PM, Peachtree Ballroom (Westin).



The Solve for X Science Show

It’s the science variety show! Puppets, PowerPoint karaoke, science quiz game, and live comedy and storytelling! With special guest stars Amber Nash, Gregg Van Laningham, and Topher Payne. Sun 10PM, Grand Ballroom East (Sheraton).



Zombie Prom

The lights are low, the music loud, and everywhere you look you just see... Zombies! It’s prom like you’ve never experienced it before. Join the Apocalypse Rising Track as we elect this year’s Zombie Prom King and Queen. Sun 10PM, Grand Ballroom A-F (Sheraton).



CHECK OUT THE PARTIES PAGE ON THE DAILY DRAGON WEBSITE.

Talking True Blood by Alicia Pack

After seven seasons, True Blood has come to a conclusion. Still fresh from the airing of the finale, **Nelsan Ellis, Michael McMillian, and Kristin Bauer** discussed the impact the show has had on them on Saturday in the Hyatt Centennial II-III.

One of the first questions asked was how much the writers changed the character to fit the actor’s personality. McMillian was quick to jump on the question stating that when Steve Newlin came back as a vampire, Newlin was more like his humor and personality. Bauer said that while she never changed her lines, Ellis was the king of changes and adding words. Ellis responded that the writers did change Lafayette’s personality to reflect his laid back attitude.

Fan reactions to meeting their

favorite characters are always an interesting topic. Ellis said that women come up to him and say, “If you’re gay, I want to turn you.” McMillian quickly jumped in and said “I played a gay character, and women never come up to me and ask to turn me!” He even had a great follow-up line: “You can turn me, and I’ll turn you on.” For McMillian, he’s never been more hated. “(They) say ‘I hate you, and I hate your character.’ Can’t you pick just one? Both sides of me are offended.”

Being a vampire isn’t all that it is cracked up to be. Both Bauer and McMillian agreed that the pale make-up applied to make them look undead also made them seem older, fatter, and shorter. #VampireProblems

Read the complete article on the Daily Dragon website.

Congrats to Katie Klemp & James Donaldson!

With a little help from the South-eastern Browncoats, they got engaged right after the parade on Saturday. We wish you all the happiness in the Verse!



Happy Eight Years

Mac, you’re the one I hate the least! —Tracy



Happy Birthday to My Wife, Debra Patterson

60 has never been so sexy. —Mack Patterson



East Coast Swing

Intermediate lessons 7-8PM; beginners 8-9PM. DJ Greg G. No partner needed! Watch, listen, or participate. Sun 7PM, Vinings Room (Hy)